

Fulbright Says Hearings Prove Isles Pullout Bid

By Hale Montgomery
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Sen. J. William Fulbright yesterday said secret testimony by Administration officials proves that this country has sought the withdrawal of some Nationalist Chinese troops from Quemoy and Matsu.

Fulbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told a news conference that if Vice President Richard M. Nixon, the Republican presidential nominee, persisted in making a campaign issue out of the Nationalist-held offshore islands, he would seek to have the testimony—given in secret to the Committee—made public.

The Arkansas Democrat charged Nixon was engaging in an effort to make Sen. John F. Kennedy, the Democratic candidate, appear "soft on communism."

Fulbright said the records of Committee hearings prove that Kennedy was right in saying the Administration has tried to persuade the Chinese Nationalists to reduce their forces.

Fulbright said Kennedy did not mean that U. S. policy had been to request Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek to abandon completely the islands or withdraw all his troops from them.

Nixon on Tuesday accused Kennedy of falsehood in claiming that the Eisenhower Administration had several times sent missions to persuade Chiang to "withdraw" from the islands. Nixon said the United States had never tried to persuade Chiang to abandon the islands.

Fulbright called Nixon's latest statement on the controversy "irresponsible" and part of a technique of "in-

nuendo designed to give the impression that Kennedy is soft on communism and willing to give away something."

He said the facts shown in testimony by Administration officials and public statements over the past two years are that Kennedy's suggestion to seek a reduction of the Nationalist strength on the islands is exactly the policy that Mr. Eisenhower has been following.

"There is no doubt whatever that the Administration has consistently sought ways and means of reducing the Chinese Nationalist garrisons on Quemoy and Matsu," he said.

"As a man who makes much of the fact that he has been in the high and intimate councils of the Administration, Mr. Nixon must have known this," Fulbright said. "The only conclusion to be drawn is that he is deliberately trying to deceive the American people on the eve of the election."

Asked if he would make the testimony public, Fulbright said this depended on whether Nixon continued to make the matter an issue. If he does, the Senator said, he first will check with the White House, then possibly call a Committee meeting to vote on whether to release the transcript.

The Senator said Nixon used the same tactics in 1952 when he implied that President Harry S. Truman was guilty of treason. He called this "despicable and irresponsible tactics such as we saw in the McCarthy days."